

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are pending in the present application.

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. 121:

Group I, claims 1-9, drawn to copolymer;

Group II, claims 10-14, drawn to a process;

Group III, claim 15, drawn to composition;

Group IV, claims 16 and 22, drawn to a resin;

Group V, claims 17 and 23, drawn to an agent;

Group VI, claims 18 and 24, drawn to a modifier;

Group VII, claims 19 and 25 drawn to filler;

Group VIII, claims 21 and 27 drawn to film; and

Group IX, claims 20 and 26 drawn to dispersion.

For the purpose of examination of the present application, Applicants elect, with traverse, Group I, Claims 1-9.

The Examiner's attention is directed to the Restriction Requirement in the parent application. The Examiner should note that the compositions and articles were classified in a single group in the prior Restriction Requirement. Applicant agrees with the Examiner's grouping in the parent application with respect to Group III, claims 15-27 drawn to compositions and articles. If the claimed copolymer is found to be novel and nonobvious, then a composition

or article containing the same should be considered therewith. That is, a claim to the copolymer per se encompasses all compositions/applications thereof. Indeed, the copolymer is the common core for all of Groups I and III- IX. Contrary to the Examiner's comments in paragraph 3 of the office action, Groups I and III-IX are not in an intermediate-final product relationship. By way of example, Group III encompassing the "composition" [e.g. claim 15] is not in an intermediate-final product relationship with the copolymer of Group I. Similarly, the "adhesive" of Group IV [e.g. claim 16] is not in an intermediate-final product relationship with the copolymer of Group I. Each of the cited groups refer to specific and/or more narrowing "final" rather than "intermediate" applications of the copolymer of Group I. Examining Groups I and III-IX together in the same application is proper and would not be an undue burden on the Examiner. Accordingly, Groups I and III-IX should be considered in the same application.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Marc S. Weiner, Registration No. 32,181 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

- Attached is a Petition for Extension of Time.
- Attached hereto is the fee transmittal listing the required fees.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: January 17, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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